(b) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to consider the proposal;

(c) if so, by when, this system is likely to be operational;

(d) whether this system is likely to be introduced at other places also;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) The work for up-gradation of railway infrastructure facilities for introduction of suburban traffic (MMTS)—Secunderabad-Falaknuma-Lingampalli sections of twin cities of Hyderabad-Secunderabad on cost sharing basis in the ratio of 50:50 between the Ministry of Railways and Government of Andhra Pradesh has been approved and included in the Work Programme of Railways. The project is likely to be completed within one year, subject to availability of funds.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir.

(i) A Study has been conducted for identification of commuter transit system in Delhi and NCR. Few corridors have already been identified for implementation in first phase with equity participation by Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation and respective State Govt.

(ii) A detailed feasibility study is in progress at Bangalore with 2/3rd cost of the study being shared by the State Government of Karnataka. Taking up the project will depend upon findings of the study and other requisite clearances and availability of resources.

Jammu-Udhampur Rail Link Project

2094. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jammu-Udhampur rail link project, which started 12 years back, still remains to be completed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to get it expedited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) The project was sanctioned in 1981-82. Section from Jammu Tawi to Bajalta (11.75 Kms.) completed and commissioned. However, the work could not be completed due to constraint of resources, Geo-technical problems and adverse law and order situation.

(c) Necessary funds as required are being provided to complete the work expeditiously.

Loss due to Tourist Train in Gujarat

2095. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that introduction of Royal Orient, a tourist train, on Gujarat-Rajasthan MG section, resulted in a loss of Rs. 13.73 crore during 1994—2000;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of loss during the year 2000-2001;

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(d) whether the economic viability assessment of the tourist train was not gauged before introduction of the train; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) As per audit of Western Railway, a loss of Rs. 13.73 crores has been shown on account of 'Royal Orient Express'. The Railway does not compute losses incurred on this service on annual basis.

(c) The Royal Orient Express was planned not on financial viability alone, but also with objectives of promoting tourism, creating job opportunities and earn foreign exchange for the country. The breakeven for such a train has a long gestation period.